

## Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NGA-01 /018 W  
----- 065306

P R 251315Z MAY ZUY  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2649  
INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2070

UNCLAS BERLIN 5961

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GE, US

SUBJECT: LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY - VON HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT

REF: BERLIN 5787-U

1. THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED A TELEGRAM MAY 13 FROM ADAMS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY REQUESTING THE EMBASSY TO SEE IF THE HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT COULD BE DELIVERED TO PARIS FOR SPECIAL ESCORT ON MAY 29. THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE GDR MFA AND ON MAY20, WAS INFORMED BY BETTIN THAT THE MFA APPROVED THE LOAN ON BEHALF OF THE GDR, BUT DETAILS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE GALLERIES AS RECOMMENDED REFTEL.
2. IN AN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE THE LOAN TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AT THIS END, THE EMBASSY ALSO CONTACTED THE GDR MINISTRY OF CULTURE TO FIND OUT WHAT OBSTACLES MIGHT REMAIN TO THE LOAN. FRAU NINDL OF THE MINISTRY PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT BACK SOONEST.
3. THE EMBASSY CALLED HER MAY 25 TO ASCERTAIN THE RESULTS OF HER INVESTIGATION AND WAS TOLD THAT THE COUNTER PROPOSAL MADE BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY TO THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL LOAN AGREEMENT DID NOT CONTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES TO PERMIT THE LOAN TO TAKE PLACE. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE EXHIBIT OPENING ON JUNE 1, FRAU NINDL STATED THAT SHE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE LOAN TO ATKE PLACE.

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4. SHE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT ALL OF THE EFFORT ON BOTH SIDES HAD YIELDED NO POSITIVE RESULT AND STATED REPEATEDLY THAT THE GDR HAD WANTED TO EALIZE THE LOAN, BUT COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT "ADEQUATE SECURITY GUARANTEES."

5. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF THE SITUATION REPORTED ABOVE AND TO EXPRESS THE EMBASSY'S REGRET THAT ITS PROLONGED EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THE LOAN WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL.  
GROVE

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL PROPERTY, LOANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
INFO USIA  
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